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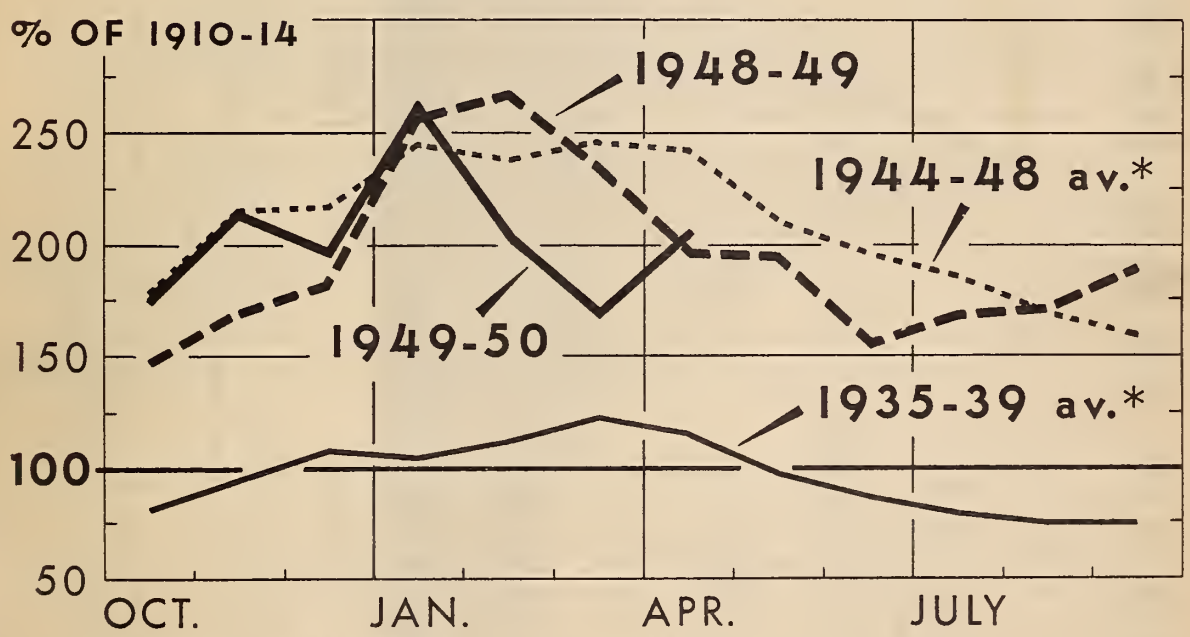
MAY 10 1950

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2 THE *Vegetable* SITUATION
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TVS-96 *BAE* APRIL 1950

FARM PRICES FOR TRUCK CROPS ON FRESH MARKET



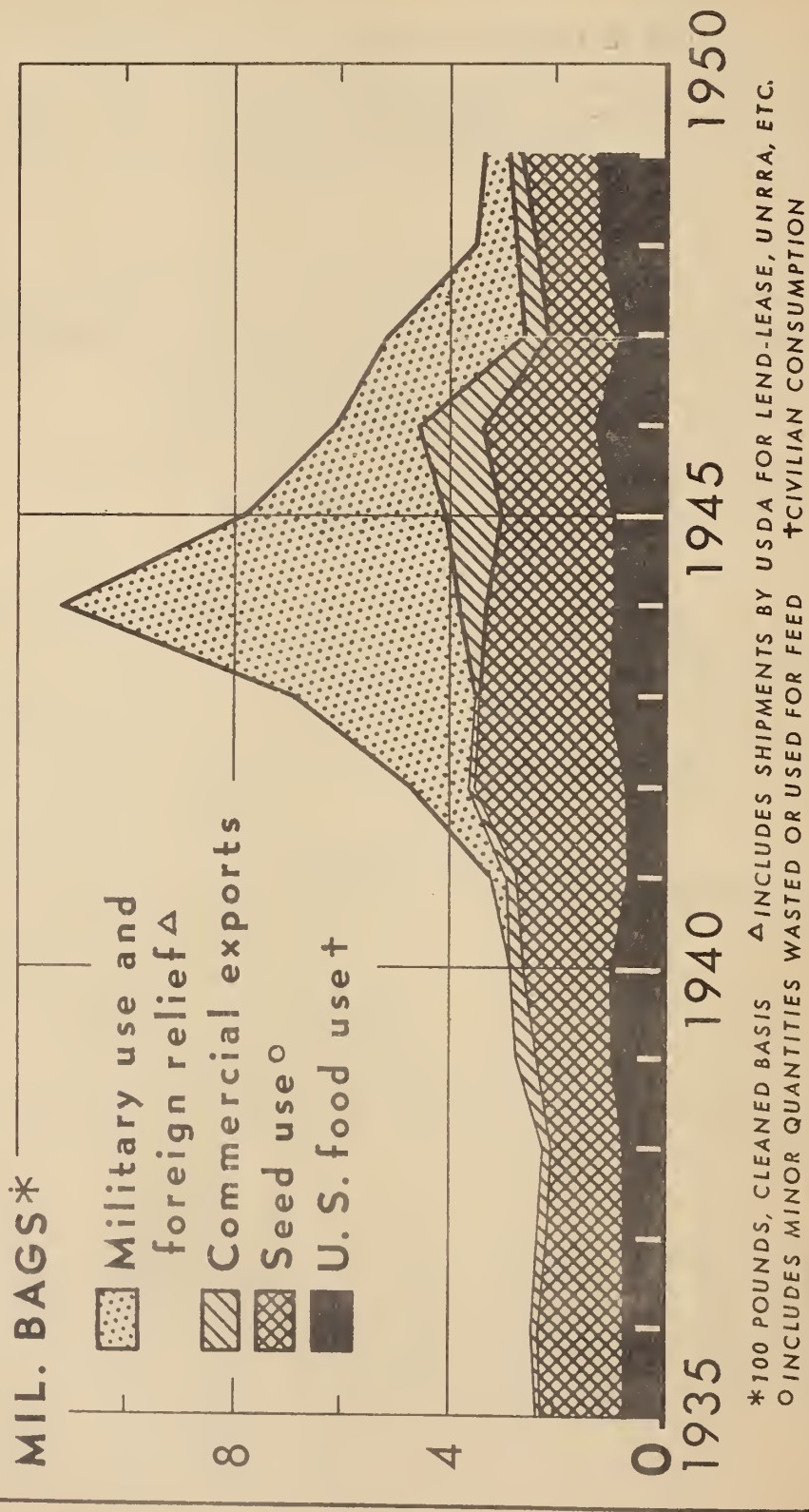
*AVERAGES BEGIN IN OCTOBER PREVIOUS TO YEAR SHOWN

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 47630-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

In 1949 and 1950 month to month changes in prices received by farmers for commercial truck crops for fresh market have been somewhat similar to the movements shown in both 1935-39 and 1944-48 average periods. However, changes in the past two years have been more violent

than average, with higher winter-time peaks, followed by earlier and more abrupt declines. The index in March 1950, was lower than in March of any other year since 1942, but rose in April 1950, to a point slightly higher than a year earlier.

USES MADE OF DRY PEAS OVER 15-YEAR PERIOD



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 47631-XX

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The tremendous increase in the total use of dry peas during the recent World War was primarily the result of the unusual war-time demands for military feeding, and foreign relief, including shipments such as those for Lend-Lease and UNRRA. Seed use expanded early in the war, to plant the increased acreage required to meet these special de-

mands. In recent years, consumption of dry peas as food by U. S. civilians, the use of peas as seed for planting subsequent acreage, and the commercial export of dry peas have not been greatly different from the levels established in the late 1930's.

 THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 1, 1950

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SUMMARY

Prospects for 1950 continue to point toward abundant supplies of fresh and processed vegetables, including potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry beans and dry peas. Prices probably will be generally lower than in 1949.

Fresh vegetable production is expected to be about the same as in 1949, but prices received by farmers may be slightly lower in general. Stocks of major items of commercially canned vegetables are in better adjustment to demand than a year earlier except perhaps for canned snap beans and canned sweet corn. Frozen vegetable stocks are very high, reflecting the record-large 1949 commercial pack, but consumption at about current retail prices is expected to continue at record or near record rates.

Potatoes continue in surplus, though there is some evidence that the per capita rate of consumption may have recovered a little from last year's slump. Good weather this year and the carrying out of March acreage intentions would result in another sizeable surplus of potatoes. The level of price support for the new crop is about 8 to 10 percent lower than that for the 1949 crop.

Sweetpotato supplies have been a little larger, and prices received by farmers have been 5 to 10 percent lower than in 1948-49. Acreage intentions imply the possibility of a moderately larger acreage this year.

Record-large stocks continue to depress the price outlook for dry edible beans. Acreage intentions and recent yields suggest a crop this year about one-fourth smaller than the record large 1949 crop. Prices to growers are recovering moderately, particularly for pea and standard lima beans, after remaining below support levels for several months.

Production and use of dry field peas are rapidly returning to the prewar level after the tremendous bulge during the war. The 1949 dry field pea crop of 3.3 million bags was less than $1/3$ the size of the record crop of 10.9 million bags in 1943, but considerably above the 1935-39 average of 2.6 million bags.

TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

Winter-Season Supplies

Larger Than Last Year

Aggregate production of 18 commercial truck crops for fresh market shipment during the winter season this year (first quarter of 1950) was about 1,548,400 tons. This quantity is 9 percent more than production in the same quarter of 1949 and 23 percent more than the 1939-48 average for this season. Larger acreages, particularly in the heavy-yielding crops, and better yields for some crops, were responsible for the larger production this winter. Current harvestings during these months were supplemented by moderate supplies that were available from storage stocks of onions, cabbage, and carrots. January 1, 1950 stocks of onions were about equal to the 10-year average, but cabbage stocks were less than half of average stocks.

The generally abundant supplies resulted in lower prices to growers this winter than last. The truck crop price index averaged 211 for the first quarter of 1950, compared to 253 a year earlier. As shown on the cover chart, prices by March had fallen half the distance between the average March level for the 5 years, 1944-48, and the March level for the prewar period 1935-39.

Prospective Spring Production

Slightly Larger Than Last Year

Early reports as to prospective production of 16 fresh market truck crops, which last year accounted for 80 percent of the total spring tonnage, indicate that total spring production for these crops will be about 3 percent larger than last year and 14 percent larger than the 1939-48 average. Tonnage prospects are not up as much as acreage, partly because of lower yields per acre for about half of the crops and partly because of shifts in acreage toward crops having lower tonnage per acre.

Supplies are expected to be much larger this year for spring carrots and early spring lettuce, green peppers, shallots, and onions but substantially smaller for early spring cabbage, green peas, tomatoes, and spring cauliflower, celery, eggplant, and spinach.

Prices received by farmers for most truck crops produced for fresh market in the months of May through September probably will decline as supplies become seasonally larger. At least through early summer, the index of prices received probably will average somewhat lower than in the same months of last year. In March 1950, at 168, the index was the

lowest for March since 1942. The percentage drop from February this year was the largest on record. From March to April of this year, however, the index rose to 205, reflecting primarily the effect of early April frosts upon supplies, particularly of tomatoes and snap beans. In April 1949, the index stood at 196.

3 Summer Crop Acreages

Also Larger This Year

Prospective acreages of each of three important crops for summer harvest -- cabbage ^{1/}, onions, and watermelons -- are slightly larger than the acreages of these crops harvested last summer. Intended acreage of early-summer cabbage is about the same as that harvested last year, but intended acreage in the more important late-summer area is about 6 percent larger than last year.

Prospective acreage of onions for early-summer harvest is down slightly from that harvested last year, but acreage for the major part of the crop for late-summer harvest is expected to be up moderately compared with last year.

Watermelon acreage for early-summer harvest, which takes in the great bulk of the annual watermelon crop, is estimated to be 5 percent larger than last year and 10 percent above the 10-year average. Prospective acreage for the relatively less important late-summer harvest is slightly smaller than that harvested last year and much smaller than average.

Cabbage

Stocks of cabbage in storage January 1, 1950 (23,700 tons) were 45 percent smaller than those of a year earlier and 54 percent smaller than the 1939-48 average for that date. Prices received by growers in January reflected these below-average stocks and were higher than a year earlier. However, production in areas producing for the winter-season fresh market was considerably larger this year than last. The larger market receipts from this source quickly offset the lower storage stocks so that prices to growers fell rapidly in February, recovered in early March, and then declined again. Discouraging prices caused considerable neglect and economic abandonment of the winter cabbage crop. Production for early-spring harvest was estimated at slightly more than the 10-year average, but 12 percent less than the early-spring crop of 1949.

Acreage planted to cabbage for late-spring harvest is currently estimated to be 5 percent larger than last year's harvested acreage, and 10 percent above average. Prospective acreage for early-summer harvest is approximately the same as last year's harvested acreage, while a 6 percent increase is expected in the late-summer acreage. Prospective acreage of domestic-type cabbage for early-fall harvest is 6 percent larger than last year and 10 percent larger than average. Considerable tonnage from this acreage is also used for kraut manufacture, as well as for shipments to the fresh market.

1/ Including cabbage used for sauerkraut.

Prospective acreage of early-fall Danish-type cabbage is 4 percent above that harvested last year but about 2 percent below the 10-year average.

Lettuce

Heavy production of lettuce for winter-season harvest this year kept prices received by farmers for this crop generally well below those received in early 1949. The winter crop was more than one-fifth larger than the 1949 winter crop and nearly two-thirds larger than average. The large supply and lower prices continued through early April, with early-spring production estimated at 16 percent more than that of 1949 and 26 percent more than the 10-year average.

Onions

At the beginning of this year, stocks of dry onions in storage were equal to the 10-year average holdings for January 1, but were fully one-fifth smaller than the large stocks held a year earlier. This supply situation was reflected in prices received by farmers for onions marketed in early January, 1950, when prices were nearly double those of a year earlier.

This price advantage to farmers was relatively short-lived, however. Acreage of onions for early-spring harvest in Texas this year was reported in early February to be more than double that harvested a year earlier. Even after severe damage to the crop by blight, thrips, and dry weather, and abandonment of more than one-third of the acreage anticipated in February, the early-spring crop this year turned out to be slightly above the 10-year average and nearly 50 percent larger than that harvested in the early spring of 1949. Of perhaps equal significance was the fact that carlot rail movement of this early crop this year began much earlier and on a much larger scale than in early 1949. Eight cars of Texas onions were shipped in the week ended February 25 this year, against none for the same week a year earlier. Through the week ended April 22, some 2,200 cars of 1950-crop onions of domestic origin had moved by rail, as against only 370 cars for the same period of 1949. In addition, imports, principally from Chile, were much heavier this February, March, and early April than they were in the same months last year.

Onion price prospects for the rest of the year depend primarily, of course, upon what happens to production. Prospective acreage for late-spring harvest is 3 percent smaller than in 1949 and 13 percent below average; this prospective acreage change, however, is probably more than offset by the fact that a large acreage increase occurred in the irrigated areas of California - where yields are very high - while most of the acreage decrease occurred in non-irrigated areas of Texas - where yields are relatively low.

Prospective onion acreage for early-summer harvest is down 3 percent from the acreage harvested last year, and 14 percent below average. Ordinarily only about 5 percent of the annual onion crop is harvested during this period.

Prospective onion acreage for late-summer harvest - the season when about 4/5 of the annual crop is produced - is 7 percent larger than the acreage harvested last year and 6 percent larger than average. The chances seem better than even that the summer crop will be larger this year than last. The acreage is expected to be larger, increased acreages are mainly in the Western States where yields average much higher than in Central and Eastern States, and yields per acre last year were below average in many Central and Eastern States as well as in Colorado - the largest producer in the Western States.

Tomatoes

As the result of increases in both acreage harvested and average yield per acre, the 1950 winter-season production of tomatoes was 10 percent larger than in 1949 and 64 percent more than average. Between February and March, prospects for the winter tomato crop so improved that the March estimate (unchanged in April report) was almost double the February forecast, and completely changed the situation from one of prospective shortage to one of abundant supply. Imports of tomatoes, mostly from Cuba, also were about 8 percent heavier this winter than a year earlier, and as usual constituted about 2/3 of the total rail and boat carlot shipments during this season.

The changing outlook for tomato supplies was reflected in prices received by farmers this past fall, winter, and spring. In rapid succession, the market moved from open weather, abundant late-fall supplies, and about a \$3 per bushel price to farmers in December-- to the prospect of more-than-seasonally--short winter supplies, accompanied by prices to farmers around \$6 per bushel-- to much-above-average winter supplies, and prices to tomato growers in March this year down close to \$3 per bushel again. In early April, growers received an average of \$6.05 per bushel, compared with \$5.25 for the same period a year earlier.

The early-spring crop of tomatoes is expected to be 9 percent smaller than that harvested in 1949, although 16 percent larger than the 10-year average. Based upon the current supply prospects, prices to farmers for tomatoes in early May are expected to fall less than seasonally.

Other Important Spring Crops

Asparagus production in the early-spring States - including that used in processing - is 4 percent larger this year than last year's early spring crop and 8 percent larger than average. In 1949, processors used more than 4.9 million crates or 73 percent of that early spring crop, in contrast to a 10-year average of about 3.9 million crates or 60 percent of the crop. The quantity used by processors this year will not be officially estimated until December.

Snap bean production this year for early and mid-spring harvest was reduced and delayed by frost and low temperatures in several areas. Supplies, particularly in the mid-spring areas, were moderately smaller than a year earlier.

The total acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is tentatively estimated to be 4 percent larger than that harvested last year and 44 percent above the 10-year average. An acreage decline in California is more than offset by increases in Arizona and Florida.

Spring carrot production is estimated to be 13 percent larger than the 1949 spring crop, but about 2 percent below the 10-year average. The increase in crop this year is due primarily to increased acreage planted for spring harvest, but also in part to a shift of 300 acres from the winter classification to spring because of delayed shipping in Arizona. Prices at the start of the spring season were near last year's level.

The estimated spring crop of celery this year is 11 percent smaller than the 1949 spring crop, but 52 percent more than the 10-year average. Prices received by farmers for celery during the first 3 months of 1950 have been considerably below those received a year earlier in spite of smaller production this year. Carlot rail shipments of celery, however, were heavier in January and February this year than last. Rail shipments in March were about 10 percent lighter this year than last. Prices received by farmers were higher in early April than they were a year ago, and will probably average higher than last year in May, but probably will still be low in relation to the post-war peak prices.

The April 1 estimate of late-spring watermelon acreage, which indicated a slight increase over last year and a very large increase over average, must be considered highly tentative until the full effect of low temperatures after April 1 can be assessed. The first 2 carlots by rail this season moved from Florida the week ended April 1, at least 2 weeks earlier than first rail movement last year. Prospective early-summer acreage, which accounts for about 2/3 of the annual watermelon crop, is 5 percent larger than the acreage harvested last year and 10 percent larger than the 10-year average.

TRUCK CROPS FOR PROCESSING

Demand for vegetables to be processed (canned or frozen) commercially is expressed through the efforts of processors to contract acreage in advance of the season and through the competitive bidding by processors for supplies that might otherwise be sold for fresh consumption. Such demand in 1950 compared with 1949 is expected to be slightly weaker in total - and in particular for snap beans, beets, sweet corn, and spinach - but relatively stronger for tomatoes and green peas. These expectations are based upon a review of such stock data as are available for canned and frozen vegetables and upon reports of processors' acreage intentions.

Interpretations of reports from snap bean processors indicate the probability of a planted acreage about the same as in 1949 but slightly smaller than the 1939-48 average. Such an acreage with abandonment and yields per acre similar to the 10-year average would result in a crop this year about one-fifth smaller than the 1949 crop for processing, but approximately equal to the 10-year average.

Early-season intentions indicate that kraut packers may plant or contract for planting about 12 percent more acres in cabbage than in 1949 and 18 percent more than the 10-year average. In addition to supplies so obtained, kraut packers in past years also have purchased cabbage from open market acreage amounting to 42 to 69 percent of the total acreage of cabbage used for kraut. This percentage was 45 percent in 1949, and averaged 50 percent for the years 1939-48.

Since a below-average quantity of cabbage was devoted to kraut manufacture in 1949, processors' demand for increased contract acreage this year may extend also to open market acreage. Another straw in the wind is the slight increase in acreage of early-fall Domestic-type cabbage in prospect this year, as mentioned above under discussion of fresh market prospects; substantial quantities of cabbage in this seasonal and type classification customarily are used for kraut.

Late March intentions of commercial canners and freezers indicated a possible decrease of one-fifth in acreage planted to sweet corn, compared either with last year's acreage or with the 10-year average. Because past reductions in acreage for processing often have been accomplished by, or accompanied by, reductions in prices paid the growers, it is assumed that prices received by farmers for sweet corn used for processing will be significantly lower this year than last.

Processors' reports indicate a probable acreage planted to green peas for processing this year less than one percent larger than last year. If such an acreage materializes, and if acreage losses are in line with recent years, the resulting acreage for harvest would be 2 percent smaller than that harvested last year and 5 percent below the 10-year average. The processors' intentions for pea acreage also indicate the probability of a substantial (12 percent) increase compared with 1949 in the acreage planted for freezing, but a slight decline (2 percent) in the acreage designed for canning or other processing. It also is indicated that about 22 percent of the total acreage will be for freezing, an increase from prior years. Prices to farmers for processing peas are expected to hold near last year's levels.

The winter-harvested spinach crop for processing this year is estimated to be 14 percent smaller than that of 1949, but 6 percent more than the 1939-48 average production. However, all areas producing spinach for processing will not be included in reports of estimated production until November. The winter-harvested portion of the crop accounted for 63 percent of the total spinach processed in 1949. Since the winter-season reduction this year was primarily the result of an intentional decrease in acreage, it is likely that it was accompanied by some decrease in prices paid to growers.

Early April intentions of processors point to a probable planted acreage of tomatoes for processing about 11 percent larger than last year. Such an acreage would be 21 percent less than the 10-year average, however. With average abandonment and average yields, such an acreage would produce a crop moderately smaller than the 1949 crop and considerably smaller than average.

Intentions of processors in early April for other crops indicated the probability of planted acreages this year 2 percent larger than last year for beets, about 15 percent smaller for cucumbers (for pickles), and more than one-fourth larger than last year for pimientos.

CANNED VEGETABLES

1949 Pack Slightly Larger Than 1948 Pack 1/

Incomplete data and preliminary estimates indicate that the total 1949 commercial pack of canned vegetables probably was about 4 percent larger than the 1948 pack but about one-fifth smaller than the record-large pack of 1946. Of the major items, the 1949 pack is considerably larger than the 1948 pack for snap beans, spinach, tomato pulp, and tomato paste. On the other hand, the 1949 pack was very much smaller than the 1948 pack of tomato catsup and chili sauce and of sauerkraut (including bulk), and was considerably smaller for canned tomatoes and tomato juice. The corn pack was down slightly; the green pea pack up a trifle.

Current Stocks Generally Higher Than Year Ago

The 5 major canned items: snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice (including tomato-vegetable juice combinations) generally account for about 4/5 of all canned vegetables combined, and are often taken as an indicator of canned vegetables in general. Combined packer and wholesale distributor stocks of these 5 items this March 1 were slightly larger than a year earlier - up less than 1 percent. Within the group of 5, stocks of canned corn were very much larger this March 1 than a year earlier, and canned snap beans, though not burdensome, were larger than a year earlier, while stocks of canned green peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice were substantially smaller. Distributor stocks do not appear excessive on any of the 5 items, but important accumulations appear in canners' stocks.

Rapid depletions in stocks have occurred in recent months, particularly for items known to be in heavy supply. Lower retail prices on many items have helped to maintain per capita consumption of canned vegetables at a level significantly higher than in 1948 and exceeded only in 3 other years.

1/ Data are compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from various sources, principally reports of the Bureau of the Census (Department of Commerce) and the National Cannery Association. As compiled here, canned vegetables include asparagus, green lima beans, snap beans, beets, carrots, corn, mixed vegetables, peas, pumpkin and squash, spinach, other leafy greens, kraut (including bulk), pimientos, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, tomato pulp, tomato juice (including tomato-vegetable juice combinations), tomato sauce, tomato paste, catsup and chili sauce, and pickles (including bulk).

While some compensating adjustments in pack or in retail prices may need to be made on some items this year, in general the canned vegetable industry is judged to be on a sound basis with the prospect of a stable or rising trend in per capita consumption.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

New Record-High Frozen Vegetable Pack in 1949

The 1949 pack of commercially frozen vegetables is estimated at 563.5 million pounds, a new high-record, and about one-fourth larger than the 1948 pack. The 1949 pack was larger than a year earlier for nearly all items, but was smaller than in 1948 for frozen green peas and frozen carrots. The 1949 frozen pack was a new high record for each individual vegetable item except for records set in 1946 for cut corn, green peas, asparagus, and rhubarb; in 1948 for carrots, and in 1943 for pumpkin and squash.

Cold-Storage Stocks High But Moving Out Rapidly

April 1, 1950 holdings of frozen vegetables, at nearly 270 million pounds, were nearly 1/3 larger than stocks a year earlier, and 46 percent larger than the 1945-49 average for that date. However, frozen holdings have been moving out rapidly, as indicated by the net out-movement in March. Stocks decreased 36 million pounds in that month this year, in contrast to a March 1949 decrease of 23 million pounds and an average March decrease of 21 million pounds. Moreover, the heaviest withdrawals came out of the major items held in largest quantities, namely, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, and sweet corn. Holdings of these 4 items this April 1 constituted 54 percent of the total holdings of frozen vegetables.

Per capita consumption of frozen vegetables in 1949 continued at nearly the record-high rate of 1948 (approximately 3 pounds per person), and consumption is expected to continue at about this high a rate through 1950. Retail prices of frozen vegetables in general have been slightly lower this winter and spring than a year earlier.

POTATOES

Smaller Surplus From 1949 Crop Than From 1948 Crop

The 1949 potato crop of 402 million bushels was nearly 53 million bushels smaller than the 1948 crop, but still substantially larger than the supply which would be adequate to meet demand at support prices.

The 1949 crop appears to be moving into consumption at a faster rate than did the 1948 crop. By March 1, 1950, nearly 210 million bushels of the 1949 crop had moved into commercial channels. A year

earlier, not quite 200 million bushels of the 1943 crop had moved into commercial channels. Commercial sales by this date this year also were a higher proportion of the crop, and of the estimated total sales for the season, than was the case a year earlier.

The better commercial movement of the 1949 crop is explained in part by the lower retail prices and in part by an improvement in average quality offered consumers. Retail prices for potatoes in leading cities early this year averaged 10 to 15 cents per peck lower than in corresponding months of 1948 and 1949. Average quality reaching markets is better this year because the support program as now designed tends to draw off the market the less desirable grades and sizes, and permit the choicer potatoes to be handled in the regular channels of trade.

Potato Stocks March 1 Record-High

Stocks of merchantable potatoes in the hands of growers and local dealers this March 1, estimated at 87.7 million bushels, were larger than ever before on that date. Holdings this March were nearly one-fourth larger than those of a year earlier and one-sixth larger than the previous March record made in 1947 by stocks remaining from the record 1946 crop.

With the 1949 crop 53 million bushels smaller than the preceding crop, and commercial movement of the 1949 crop heavier to March 1 than comparable movement for the 1943 crop, one would not ordinarily expect that stocks would be higher this March 1 than a year earlier. The explanation of this apparent anomaly lies in the fact that Government price-support purchases from the 1949 crop have lagged far behind those made from the 1948 crop, in quantity, in relation to the size of the crop, and in relation to the total or probable total size of the surplus. By January 1 this year, the Government had purchased not quite 15 million bushels of 1949-crop potatoes, and by March 1, 30.4 million bushels. In the previous season, cumulative purchases of 1948-crop potatoes to these same dates were 84.5 and 104.1 million bushels, respectively. Further, the 104 million bushels of 1948-crop potatoes was a high proportion of the final total 133 million bushels purchased by the Government, while the 30 million bushels of 1949-crop potatoes probably represent less than half the total surplus to be acquired.

Substantial Surplus Likely Again This Year

If the final acreage of potatoes this year is close to that indicated by farmers' March intentions, and if yields by States approximate those of 1948 and 1949, the total potato crop this year would be 35 to 50 million bushels larger than the crop needed to meet demand at support prices.

New (1950-crop) potatoes of U. S. No. 1 quality and size have been moving satisfactorily thus far this year, but supplies of less desirable grades and sizes have been in surplus at support prices. Through April,

support purchases of 1950-crop potatoes approximated a quarter of a million bushels, about half the quantity of surplus new potatoes bought by this time last year. Practically none of the 1950-crop surplus potatoes bought thus far have been U. S. No. 1 potatoes. The surplus potatoes this year have been going mainly into livestock feed, with smaller quantities used for food in schools and penal institutions.

Early Commercial Crop
Expected To Be Too Large

Estimated commercial acreage for harvest in late-spring areas is 6 percent larger than acreage harvested in 1949, and the largest increase in acreage is in California, where yields are very high. Production of potatoes in the commercial areas which harvest during the winter and early spring months is about 27 percent below the crop in these areas last year.

Average Support-Price
Moderately Lower This Year

The 1950 price-support schedule, based on 60 percent of parity (revised basis) January 1 of this year, is designed to reflect an average farm support price of \$1.01 per bushel for the season. The comparable support price for the 1949 crop was \$1.10 per bushel, based on 60 percent of the old parity.

The 1950 program is similar to that for the 1949 crop in that a single support price for any one State and month applies equally to eligible potatoes of each of the following grades, 2 inch minimum: U. S. No. 1, U. S. Commercial, and U. S. No. 2. Support prices on these grades again vary seasonally by months and geographically by States or marketing areas within certain States. A lower level support is set up this year to apply to eligible potatoes which are U. S. No. 1 quality, but Size B; this Size B support price is the same in all States where supports apply, and changes level just twice during the season, dropping 25 cents per cwt. on May 1 and again on June 1.

To be eligible for support, growers must stay within their individual acreage allotments, pay a nominal service charge, comply with marketing regulations issued under applicable marketing agreements and orders, and enter into an agreement with the Department under which, among other things, limits may be set on the rate at which potatoes may be offered to the Department, and the grower may be required to withhold specified low grades and sizes of potatoes from commercial markets. In the event low quality potatoes are to be withheld from commercial markets, the Department may require growers to secure Federal or Federal-State inspection covering all sales of potatoes made by them.

Support Hampered by Lack
Of Surplus Outlets

Purchases of surplus potatoes from the 1949 crop in many areas and for several months have lagged behind local demands for such service, and prices have been below the scheduled support prices in a number of

instances. However, the United States average price received by farmers for potatoes in each month of the 1949 crop marketing season has been well above 60 percent of the transitional parity, the effective parity figure applicable to that crop.

Lower Prices Ahead

Little change in prices received by farmers for potatoes yet unsold from the 1949 crop is expected for the rest of the marketing season. However, prices received for 1950 or new-crop potatoes have been running substantially below prices received for comparable potatoes a year earlier, and are expected to fall at least seasonally as the expected abundant supply begins to move in heavier volume. The United States average farm price for potatoes, therefore, probably will decline from now through next October.

Since acreage intentions and historical trends in yield point to another large surplus of potatoes this year, prices received by farmers again will need considerable bolstering. The new support level is lower than that for the 1949 crop because of the revision in method of calculating parity and because the index of prices paid by farmers has declined somewhat since a year ago. So long as the 1950 crop remains in substantial surplus, prices received by farmers probably will be below those received for the 1949 crop in the same months a year earlier.

Temporary Pick-up In Potato Consumption

Because retail prices of 1949 and 1950-crop potatoes are generally below and are expected to continue below those for the immediately preceding crops, and because the continued squeeze on consumers' budgets due to the high-cost-of-living may stimulate interest in potatoes as an economy food, it is possible that per capita consumption of potatoes of the 1949 crop may be a little higher than in other recent years. The trend has been downward for many years.

Through March 1, commercial movement of 1949-crop potatoes has been about 10 million bushels, or 5 percent, larger than movement of 1948-crop potatoes through the same date a year earlier.

SWEETPOTATOES

Current Supplies Larger, Prices Lower Than Last Year

Market supplies of sweetpotatoes have been plentiful since the harvesting of the 1949 crop, which was 8 percent larger than the 1948 crop. Beginning with last September, prices received by farmers for sweetpotatoes have averaged lower each month than in the same month a year earlier. The rises in prices from month-to-month have been somewhat less than seasonal.

Larger Acreage Intended In 1950

March intentions of farmers to plant sweetpotatoes indicated that the planted acreage this year might be about 10 percent larger than last year, but 13 percent below the 1939-48 average. Among the factors which may be influencing farmers to increase their sweetpotato acreage are: limits on cotton and peanut acreage, relatively high prices received for sweetpotatoes in recent years, and expansion of home-use acreage on the part of some farmers who find their net incomes declining.

If acreage should turn out as intentions indicate and if yields by States were similar to those of 1944-48, the sweetpotato crop this year would be slightly larger than the 1949 crop, but slightly smaller than the 10-year average. Such a crop would mean moderately lower prices to farmers, and at retail, and per capita consumption might increase for a time rather than decline as it has tended to do since 1943.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Heavy Stocks From Record-Large 1949 Crop

Record-high average yield per acre in 1949 more than offset a slight decline in acreage from the previous year, so that the final outturn was a record-large crop of 21.6 million bags (100 pounds each) on an uncleaned basis, or nearly 20.1 million bags on a cleaned basis. With heavy stocks still remaining from the very large 1948 crop, the record harvest in 1949 removed all doubt that prices for beans in general would have to be bolstered by the price-support program for many months.

Prices Drop to Support Floor But Gradually Recover

In December 1949 the United States average price received by farmers for all dry edible beans, was expected to average \$6.71 per cwt. (cleaned basis) for the 1949 crop. In October 1949, most varieties dropped to levels at least slightly below support but by January 1950 most had reached support or higher. For those months, the United States average of mid-month prices received by farmers for dry beans stayed within the narrow range of \$6.55 to \$6.58 per cwt. cleaned basis. The average support price for 1949-crop dry beans reflected about \$6.55 per cwt. net to growers. At present only one of the supported classes (red kidney) is somewhat below support.

Since January of this year, dry bean prices have recovered moderately in general, and substantially for some types, especially pea beans and standard dry limas.

Acreage AllotmentsIn 1950 Support Program:

Recognizing the compelling need for production adjustments, the Department announced that price support for growers of dry beans in 1950 would be conditional upon compliance with individual acreage allotments. Support prices for the 1950 crop apply to certain classes of dry beans grading U. S. No. 2 or better, and are intended to reflect an average of \$6.30 per cwt. thrasher-run basis, to farmers who plant within their allotments. The average support price to growers for the 1949-crop dry beans was about \$6.55 per cwt. thrasher-run basis. Support prices cover the following varieties of dry edible beans: Pinto, Pea and Medium White, Great Northern, Small White and Flat Small White, Light, Dark and Western Red Kidney, Cranberry, Pink, Small Red, Baby Lima, and Large Lima.

Crop and Price Prospects

Farmers' planting intentions in March indicated a probable acreage about 12 percent smaller than in 1949 and well below the 1939-48 average. If such an acreage is planted, yields by States equal to the 1945-49 average would produce a crop about 5 million bags, or 25 percent smaller than the record 1949 crop of 21.6 million bags. It is possible that the planted acreage will be below the intentions because farmers have since been notified of their acreage allotments. If the crop is 15 million bags or larger, prices to growers generally will rest upon the supports through another season. Total stocks of all types of dry beans combined on January 1 this year were record-large by a wide margin and were larger than a normal year's total production.

DRY FIELD PEAS

No Price Support On
1950-Crop Dry Peas

Stocks of dry peas are adequate to meet all anticipated requirements. The Department has announced that there will be no price support for 1950-crop dry field peas.

Use of Dry Peas
About Back to "Normal"

As indicated in the chart on the inside cover of this issue of the Vegetable Situation, the tremendous expansion in use of dry peas during the war and immediate post-war years was to meet special and non-continuing needs, particularly supplying our military forces and allies, and the relief feeding of people abroad in the immediate post-war reconstruction period.

Food use in this country appears to be back in line with the prewar trend, and seems to be no larger than necessary to maintain an approximately stable level of per capita consumption of about 0.6 pound.

1950 Crop and Price Prospects

March intentions indicated the probability of an acreage of dry peds this year about 23 percent smaller than last year. However, such an acreage with yields by States equal to 1944-48 would produce a crop about as large as the 1949 crop when yields were very low. In such an event, prices to growers probably would average somewhat lower than the price received for the 1949 crop.

Table 1.- Vegetables, frozen: United States packs 1948 and 1949, and cold-storage holdings, April 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Packs		Cold-storage holdings		
	1948	1949	Average 1945-49	April 1 1949	April 1 1950
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	18,321	18,400	6,255	4,297	3,338
Beans, lima	75,403	87,900	18,511	37,071	43,864
Beans, snap	49,583	58,500	12,399	14,486	23,705
Broccoli	29,126	45,200	11,265	9,471	20,333
Brussels sprouts	10,526	23,500	4,481	4,468	8,977
Carrots	15,393	12,800	1/	1/	1/
Cauliflower	13,963	21,700	5,587	6,592	10,320
Corn, cut	20,920	37,100	18,337	14,956	24,988
Corn, on cob	10,324	17,600			
Peas	118,977	113,300	51,044	61,968	54,240
Peas and carrots	6,510	8,100	1/	1/	1/
Pumpkin and squash	5,577	8,300	5,947	3,625	6,090
Rhubarb	2,629	4,200	1/	1/	1/
Succotash	6,879	8,300	1/	1/	1/
Spinach	41,571	62,300	15,132	9,847	21,072
Other vegetables	20,656	36,400	36,271	39,280	52,126
Total	446,358	563,500	185,229	206,061	269,653

1/ Included in "other vegetables."

Pack data from National Association of Frozen Food Packers; cold-storage holdings from Cold Storage Reports, Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 2.- Truck crops for fresh market: Acreage and production, average 1939-48, annual 1949 and indicated 1950

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage					Production (equivalent tons) 1/				
	Average 1939-48 2/	1949	Indicated 1950			Average 1939-48 2/	1949	Indicated 1950		
			Acres	Percent				Tons	Percent	
				of	of				of	of
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent	Tons	Tons	Tons	Percent	Percent
WINTER 3/	273,360	238,350	305,300	112	106	1,256,400	1,423,600	1,548,400	123	109
Spring:										
Asparagus 4/	129,010	128,540	131,420	102	102	5/ 97,700	5/102,000	106,000	103	104
Lima beans	7,750	4,450	4,200	54	94	---	---	---	---	---
Snap beans 6/	49,850	41,400	45,600	91	110	63,200	60,800	60,500	96	100
Beets	1,520	1,050	1,000	66	95	7,100	6,200	6,000	85	97
Cabbage 3/	31,080	31,490	31,350	101	100	5/ 97,400	5/111,700	98,700	101	83
Cantaloups	20,120	27,800	29,000	144	104	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	9,960	7,400	8,400	84	114	101,300	88,000	99,300	98	113
Cauliflower	9,760	10,800	9,500	97	83	60,600	76,000	70,300	116	92
Celery	5,240	6,600	5,800	111	83	108,100	185,900	164,700	152	89
Cucumbers 1/	10,240	10,600	12,800	125	121	23,900	27,100	30,800	129	114
Eggplant	1,180	1,800	1,000	85	56	6,400	7,700	5,800	91	75
Honey Balls 8/	430	390	400	33	103	---	---	---	---	---
Honey Dews 8/	340	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lettuce 1/	53,780	57,200	57,350	107	100	256,400	277,300	322,800	126	116
Onions	62,200	51,700	62,400	100	121	5/ 96,100	5/ 66,800	99,400	103	149
Green peas 1/	24,970	10,850	9,050	36	83	31,200	17,100	15,200	49	89
Green peppers	3,970	6,700	8,400	212	125	11,600	19,200	23,600	203	123
Shallots	2,140	1,600	1,500	70	94	3,000	1,200	1,600	53	133
Spinach	10,340	8,260	8,670	84	105	27,500	23,100	20,900	76	90
Tomatoes 7/	53,400	47,400	57,000	107	120	126,800	161,500	147,700	116	91
Watermelons	36,460	65,600	68,000	187	104	---	---	---	---	---
Total spring to date 3/ 4/:										
Acreage and production:	386,430	345,810	374,370	97	103	1,118,300	1,231,600	1,273,300	114	103
Acreage	523,790	521,630	552,840	106	106	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SPRING 3/ 4/	617,600	611,360	---	---	---	1,757,400	1,541,000	---	---	---
Prospective										
Early summer:										
Cabbage 3/	12,490	13,140	13,200	106	100	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	6,990	6,210	6,040	86	97	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	187,520	197,300	207,200	110	105	---	---	---	---	---
Late summer:										
Cabbage 3/	20,040	17,340	18,400	92	106	---	---	---	---	---
Onions	62,390	61,650	65,930	106	107	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons	23,810	19,850	18,920	79	95	---	---	---	---	---
Total summer to date 3/:										
Acreage	313,240	315,490	329,740	105	105	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL SUMMER 3/	726,270	723,570	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Early fall:										
Cabbage 3/:										
Domestic	29,530	30,350	32,550	110	106	---	---	---	---	---
Danish	31,620	29,500	30,300	98	104	---	---	---	---	---
TOTAL FALL 3/:	260,120	269,080	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Reported to date for 1950 with comparisons 3/ 4/										
Acreage and production:	659,790	634,160	679,670	103	107	2,374,700	2,655,200	2,821,700	119	106
Acreage	1,171,540	1,185,920	1,251,330	107	106	---	---	---	---	---
Totals for past seasons 3/ 4/										
Annual total	1,877,340	1,892,360	---	---	---	7,820,300	8,468,400	---	---	---

1/ Equivalent tons based on approximate net weight of unit used in estimating yield and production.

2/ For seasonal groups and annual totals, averages are of the yearly totals, not the sum of the "crop" averages.

3/ Includes cabbage used for sauerkraut.

4/ Includes asparagus used for processing.

5/ Production for early spring only.

6/ Early and mid-spring only.

7/ Early spring only.

8/ Early covered acreage only.

Table 3.- Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Carlot (rail and boat) shipments from originating points in the United States, for indicated periods in 1949 and 1950 1/

Commodity	1949		1949-50 season				
	Month	Week	Month		Week		
		ended				ended	
	March	April 16	December	January	February	March	April 15
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Asparagus	140	390	---	---	2	341	240
Beans, snap and lima ..	643	177	211	270	273	664	158
Beets	115	23	37	43	42	107	15
Broccoli	325	14	226	150	166	323	38
Cabbage	3,555	803	1,426	2,281	2,050	2,390	628
Carrots	2,351	551	1,785	2,077	2,203	2,588	684
Cauliflower	1,291	193	877	679	772	1,156	102
Celery	3,358	538	3,019	2,629	2,558	3,155	618
Corn, green	42	77	17	---	2	76	160
Cucumbers	140	41	149	34	40	51	1
Eggplant	18	---	3	---	2	---	---
Escarole	205	27	167	190	158	163	33
Greens, except spinach:	234	19	143	185	170	181	40
Lettuce and romaine ..	6,762	2,389	5,999	5,935	6,868	6,929	2,088
Mixed vegetables	3,114	508	3,732	4,190	3,748	3,957	586
Onions	2,092	632	1,903	2,191	2,033	2,139	517
Peas, green	30	75	57	4	2	122	73
Peppers, green	219	68	317	343	214	248	36
Spinach	848	56	364	421	316	364	43
Tomatoes	1,586	526	1,346	462	1,100	1,209	524
Turnips and rutabagas :	1	1	71	53	37	24	3
Watermelons	---	15	---	---	---	2	9
Total of above ..	27,069	7,123	21,849	22,137	22,756	26,189	6,596
Potatoes:							
Early	1,753	1,278	156	370	628	1,603	1,502
Intermediate	2	---	58	14	---	---	---
Late, surplus	34,205	5,256	16,161	19,392	19,834	25,184	4,604
Late, other	131	1	223	386	288	193	7
Total	36,091	6,535	16,598	20,162	20,750	26,980	6,113
Sweetpotatoes	375	30	663	404	335	487	54
Grand total	63,535	13,688	39,110	42,703	43,841	53,656	12,763

1/ Does not include shipments by motortruck. Includes Government purchases.

Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 4.- Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale price at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods, 1949 and 1950

Market and commodity	Unit	1949		1949-50 season					
		Month	Week	Month				Week	
		ended	ended	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	ended	
		March	Apr. 16	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. 15	
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
New York									
Asparagus, select and :									
extra fancy, Calif. :	Pyramid crate :	12.52	7.05	---	---	---	11.65	5.32	
Beans, lima, Florida :	Bushel :	5.47	4.05	6.57	4.06	5.12	4.88	3.67	
Beans, snap, green, Fla. :	Bushel :	3.43	4.52	4.90	5.11	4.31	2.85	4.65	
Beets, bunched, Texas :	1/2 L.A. crate :	2.47	3.88	---	2.22	2.29	2.20	2.40	
Beets, topped, Texas :	50-lb. sack :	2.13	4.25	---	---	---	2.03	1.85	
Beets, topped, eastern :	Bushel :	---	1.38	.79	.79	.73	.89	.75	
Broccoli, western..... :	Pony crate :	6.94	7.65	5.98	7.96	8.01	6.34	6.55	
Broccoli, Texas :	Pony crate :	5.37	---	3.55	5.46	5.99	4.94	---	
Cabbage, domestic, Fla. :	1-3/4 bu. box :	2.68	1.62	2.18	1.70	1.85	1.65	1.60	
Cabbage, domestic, Tex. :	2/3 crate :	2.61	---	2.09	1.85	2.04	1.83	---	
Cabbage, Danish, N.Y. :	50-lb. sack :	1.42	1.67	1.07	1.06	1.26	1.63	---	
Carrots, bunched, :									
western :	L. A. crate :	4.90	5.78	6.20	6.22	5.57	4.68	4.92	
Carrots, topped, Tex. :	50-lb. sack :	1.55	1.56	---	2.14	2.22	1.97	2.12	
Carrots, topped, :									
eastern :	Bushel :	.88	.96	1.23	1.10	1.06	1.07	---	
Cauliflower, western :	Pony crate :	3.09	3.25	2.56	2.86	2.97	2.85	3.46	
Celery, Golden Heart, :									
Florida :	16-inch crate :	4.83	2.95	3.54	2.76	3.19	2.73	3.70	
Celery, Golden Heart, :									
California :	1/2 crate :	---	---	4.33	3.59	---	---	---	
Celery, Pascal, Fla. :	16-inch crate :	4.12	3.12	---	3.32	3.44	2.36	2.72	
Celery, Pascal, Calif. :	Nailed crate :	4.71	3.19	3.35	4.10	5.12	3.75	3.94	
Cucumbers, Florida :	Bushel :	7.69	7.30	3.74	5.91	5.05	5.67	11.44	
Eggplant, Florida :	Bushel :	2.60	2.60	3.10	3.35	2.26	3.05	3.88	
Escarole, Florida :	Bushel :	2.51	1.55	1.74	1.32	1.54	1.62	2.05	
Kale, Virginia :	Bushel :	.68	.64	.82	.82	.73	.66	.72	
Lettuce, Iceberg, :									
western :	L. A. crate :	8.52	9.30	5.30	7.35	4.35	4.81	5.55	
Lettuce, Big Boston, :									
Florida :	E. crate :	3.32	2.79	1.73	2.40	2.12	2.21	2.83	
Onions, yellow, Bermud. :									
Texas :	50-lb. sack :	---	---	---	---	---	1.93	2.21	
Onions, Sw, Spanish 1/2 :	50-lb. sack :	2.57	2.75	2.71	2.93	2.85	2.33	3.06	
Onions, yellow, N. Y. :	50-lb. sack :	1.25	1.31	2.96	2.37	1.61	1.17	1.18	
Peas, green, Mexico ... :	Bushel :	5.91	2/4.65	2/4.83	4.34	4.18	4.96	2/3.68	
Peppers, green, Florida :	Bushel :	3.78	3.72	2.56	2.31	2.81	3.16	2.58	
Spinach, Savoy type, :									
Texas :	Bushel :	2.68	3/1.29	1.57	2.03	3.08	2.82	3/1.14	
Tomatoes, Florida 4/ .. :	Lug 6x6 & 1gr :	3.55	3.60	3.49	3.12	3.32	2.96	4.95	
Tomatoes, Florida 4/ .. :	Lug 6x7 :	3.22	3.88	3.24	3.20	3.26	2.71	4.32	
Tomatoes, Cuba 4/ :	Lug 6x6 & 1gr :	3.59	3.28	---	2.74	2.72	---	3.71	
Tomatoes, Cuba 4/ :	Lug 6x7 :	3.44	3.08	---	2.79	2.45	---	3.68	

- Continued

Table 4.- Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale price at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods, 1949 and 1950 - Continued

Market and commodity	Unit	1949		1949-50 season				
		Month	Week	Month				Week
		ended	ended	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	ended
		March	Apr. 16	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Chicago		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus, select and extra fancy, Calif.	Pyramid crate	---	6.68	---	---	---	11.63	5.58
Beans, snap, green, Florida	Bushel	3.33	4.15	5.37	5.49	4.37	3.38	4.52
Beets, bunched, Texas	1/2 L.A. crate	2.09	2.92	2.04	1.96	2.07	2.04	2.55
Broccoli, western	Pony crate	6.10	7.10	4.73	6.57	6.69	5.46	5.58
Broccoli, Texas	Pony crate	4.73	---	---	4.88	5.35	4.59	4.19
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	50-lb. sack	5/2.51	5/1.52	1.78	1.55	1.48	1.50	6/1.54
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	L. A. crate	2/4.44	---	3.16	3.33	3.00	3.07	---
Cabbage, Danish, Wis.	50-lb. sack	---	---	1.10	1.11	1.15	---	---
Carrots, bunched, western	L. A. crate	3.74	4.32	5.35	4.70	4.15	4.12	4.15
Carrots, bunched, Tex.	L. A. crate	3.45	3.52	4.46	4.04	3.68	3.62	3.80
Carrots, topped, Ill.	50-lb. sack	.65	.62	1.36	1.18	.94	.92	1.00
Cauliflower, western	Pony crate	2.52	2.80	2.09	2.63	2.77	2.60	2.82
Celery, Golden Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	5.12	3.25	3.09	2.88	3.34	3.04	3.42
Celery, Golden Heart, California	1/2 crate	---	---	4.01	3.73	---	---	---
Celery, Pascal, Fla.	16-inch crate	4.16	3.20	---	3.41	3.49	2.64	2.82
Celery, Pascal, Calif.	16-inch crate	4.71	2.95	5.08	3.79	4.70	3.32	4.29
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	8.84	8.65	4.23	6.26	5.82	5.94	10.30
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	2.91	3.17	3.40	3.12	2.54	3.06	2.81
Escarole, Florida	Bushel	2.69	1.94	1.62	1.57	1.49	1.72	1.84
Lettuce, Iceberg, western	L. A. crate	7.95	7.52	4.95	6.64	4.37	4.45	5.12
Lettuce, leaf, hothouse	10-lb. basket	2.92	2.36	.81	2.06	2.28	1.50	1.59
Onions, yellow, Bermuda	50-lb. sack	---	---	---	---	---	1.82	2.01
Onions, Sw. Spanish 1/2	50-lb. sack	2.26	2.40	2.52	2.66	2.56	2.04	2.25
Onions, yellow, midwestern	50-lb. sack	1.21	1.25	2.74	2.18	1.28	.88	.72
Peas, green, Mexico	Bushel	4.46	7/4.50	7/3.95	4.09	3.97	4.92	7/3.48
Peppers, green, Fla.	Bushel	4.77	4.30	2.78	2.75	3.30	4.02	3.18
Spinach, flat type, Tex.	Bushel	2.02	1.75	1.36	1.67	2.30	2.30	1.81
Tomatoes, Florida	Lug 6x6 & 1gr	5.38	5.00	3.62	4.35	4.44	3.42	5.71
Tomatoes, Florida	Lug 6x7	4.89	4.62	3.20	4.03	3.68	3.01	5.00
Tomatoes, repacked	10-lb. carton	2.29	2.07	1.74	1.75	1.77	1.51	2.16

1/ Western. 3-inch minimum.

2/ California.

3/ Virginia.

4/ Auction sales.

5/ Florida.

6/ Louisiana.

7/ Western

Table 5.- Truck crops: Average prices received by growers, United States, April 1-15, 1950, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	5-year		Month		April 1-15	
		average		March		1949	
		1938-42	1949	1949	1950	1949	1950
	Container	Weight					
		Pounds	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	Box	40	2.28	5.50	3.75	5.00	3.25
Asparagus	Crate	30	2.67	6.50	5.00	3.75	3.55
Beans, lima	Bushel	32	2.12	3.80	3.20	2.60	2.50
Beans, snap	Bushel	30	1.43	2.65	2.00	2.55	3.15
Beets	Bushel	52	.47	.70	.65	.90	.85
Cabbage	Ton	2,000	16.08	48.40	22.00	27.10	19.80
Carrots	Bushel	50	.88	1.25	1.20	1.55	1.30
Cauliflower	Crate	37	.81	1.20	1.00	1.40	1.25
Celery	Equiv. 1/2 crate	65	1.45	2.60	1.50	1.55	1.75
Cucumbers	Bushel	48	2.19	4.10	3.75	4.00	5.40
Eggplant	Bushel	33	1.02	1.35	1.80	1.25	2.00
Lettuce	Crate	70	1.81	5.35	2.90	4.80	3.20
Onions	Sack	50	.78	.85	.75	1.60	1.05
Peas, green	Bushel	30	1.53	4.00	2.60	2.55	2.05
Peppers, green	Bushel	25	1.26	2.70	2.10	1.90	1.85
Spinach	Bushel	18	.54	1.05	1.25	1.00	.90
Strawberries	24 qt. crate	36	4.46	11.05	11.60	12.25	12.90
Tomatoes	Bushel	53	2.28	5.35	3.80	5.25	6.05

Table 6.- Truck crops for commercial processing: Intended plantings 1950, with comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage			1950 as a	
	Average	1949	Intended	percentage of-	
	1939-48		1950	Average	1949
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Beans, snap	117,440	115,580	115,210	98	100
Beets	16,100	18,910	19,200	119	102
Cabbage for kraut 1/	9,740	10,250	11,500	118	112
Corn, sweet	475,540	481,440	375,750	79	78
Cucumbers for pickles	116,540	144,670	122,690	105	85
Peas, green	431,440	406,250	409,700	95	101
Pimientos (Georgia only)	13,320	24,520	31,500	236	129
Spinach, California and					
Texas only 2/	14,400	16,550	13,340	93	81
Tomatoes	521,090	368,340	409,400	79	111
Total 3/	1,715,610	1,586,490	1,508,290	88	95

1/ "Contract acreage" only. "Open market" acreage is in addition to this and usually amounts to about half the total acreage of cabbage for kraut. 2/ Spinach for processing is grown in 4 other States (Maryland, Virginia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma). and the acreage in Calif. and Tex. is about half the total acreage. 3/ Including only parts of the acreage for kraut cabbage and for spinach, as indicated in footnotes 1 and 2. In addition to these 9 crops, the acreage of asparagus and lima beans for processing is still to be reported. NOTE pimiento acreage for Ga., only, small acreage grown in Calif.

Table 7.-- Vegetables, canned: United States, packs and stocks, 1949-50 with comparisons

TVS-96

Commodity	Packs			Date	Stocks										
	1948-49				Canners			Wholesale distributors			Total				
	1948-49	actual	cases		1949	1950	actual	cases	1949	1950		actual	cases		
	1,000	actual	cases	1,000	actual	cases	1,000	actual	cases	1,000	actual	cases	1,000	actual	cases
5 major items															
Beans, snap	14,133	19,303	Apr. 1	1,519	4,023		N.A.	3,802		3,802			7,825		
Beans, snap			Mar. 1	2,265	5,387		3,286	3,736		3,736		5,551	9,123		
Corn	34,410	33,138	Apr. 1	9,930	14,695		N.A.	7,100		7,100			21,795		
Corn			Mar. 1	12,610	18,316		7,657	6,943		6,943		20,267	25,259		
Peas, green	24,446	24,945	Apr. 1	8,149	4,678		N.A.	5,936		5,936			10,614		
Peas, green			Mar. 1	10,413	7,297		6,556	5,618		5,618		16,969	12,915		
Tomatoes	21,467	18,874	Apr. 1	6,015	4,614		N.A.	4,947		4,947			9,561		
Tomatoes			Mar. 1	7,679	6,232		5,217	4,999		4,999		12,896	11,231		
Tomato juice 1/	23,701	20,560	Apr. 1	10,893	8,061		N.A.	3,503		3,503			11,564		
Tomato juice 1/			Mar. 1	12,816	10,271		3,054	3,251		3,251		15,870	13,522		
Total 5 items	118,157	116,820	Apr. 1	36,506	36,071		N.A.	25,288		25,288			61,359		
Total 5 items			Mar. 1	45,783	47,503		25,770	24,547		24,547		71,553	72,050		
Minor items															
Asparagus	3,698	4,490	Apr. 1	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	722		N.A.					
Asparagus			Mar. 1	157	309		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Beans, lima	2,599	4,713	Apr. 1	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	1,479		N.A.					
Beans, lima			Feb. 1	635	2,625		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Beets	4,602	7,923	Apr. 1	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	1,545		N.A.					
Beets			Mar. 1	743	2,610		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Carrots	2,723	1,664	Apr. 1	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	514		N.A.					
Carrots			Mar. 1	1,111	1,055		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Pumpkin and squash	1,450	843	Apr. 1	1,149	193		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Spinach	4,348	N.A.	Mar. 1	2/40	2/147		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Tomato catsup	16,897	10,900	Apr. 1	8,745	4,687		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Chili sauce	2,544	1,370	Apr. 1	1,766	935		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					
Tomato sauce	3/4,042	3/3,928	Apr. 1	2/2,067	2/1,309		N.A.	N.A.		N.A.					

1/ Including vegetable juice containing 70% or more tomato juice. 2/ California only. Data from Canners League of California. 3/ California and Texas. Source: Canners' stock and pack data from reports of National Canners Association, unless otherwise indicated; wholesale distributors' stocks from reports of Bur. of Census.

Table 8.- Potatoes: Unweighted average prices for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1, size A, when quoted), at shipping points and terminal markets, indicated periods, 1949 and 1950

Location and variety	Unit	1949		1949-50 season					
		Month	Week	Month		Week			
		ended		ended		ended			
		March	Apr. 16	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. 15	
	Sack of	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
<u>Shipping points</u>									
<u>New crop:</u>									
Dade County, Florida 1/2/	50-lb.	2.09	1.97	---	---	2.41	2.09	---	
Hastings, Fla. Sebago 2/	50-lb.	2.41	1.95	---	---	---	---	1.85	
Lower Rio Grande Valley									
points, Texas 1/ 2/	50-lb.	---	2.26	---	---	---	---	1.99	
<u>Old crop:</u>									
San Luis Valley,									
Colorado, Red McClure 2/	100-lb.	3.27	---	2.04	2.05	2.02	2.05	---	
Idaho Falls, Idaho,									
Russet Burbank 2/	100-lb.	3.18	3.52	2.98	2.94	2.60	2.47	---	
Aroostook County, Maine									
various varieties	100-lb.	3.25	3.20	1.84	1.90	1.93	2.02	1.93	
West Michigan points: 3/									
Round White	100-lb.	3.01	---	1.98	2.05	1.98	2.01	---	
Russet Rural	100-lb.	2.95	---	1.85	1.92	1.81	1.86	---	
Western Nebraska, Platte:									
Valley points, Bliss									
Triumph, 2/	100-lb.	3.08	---	---	2.28	2.16	---	---	
Rochester, New York									
various varieties	100-lb.	3.35	3.55	1.89	1.91	1.81	2.05	2.29	
Yakima, Ellensburg Dist.,									
Wash., Russet Burbank 2/	100-lb.	3.60	---	---	3.13	---	---	---	
Stevens Point, Wisconsin:									
various varieties 3/	100-lb.	2.78	3.25	2.08	2.10	1.99	4/1.89	4/2.19	
<u>Terminal markets</u>									
<u>New York:</u>									
Bliss Triumph, Fla. (new)	50-lb.	2.83	2.88	---	2.57	2.38	2.35	2.68	
Sebago, Florida 2/	50-lb.	3.62	2.84	---	---	---	2.67	2.48	
Bliss Triumph, Nebraska:									
(old) 2/	50-lb.	---	---	2.60	2.59	2.45	2.53	---	
Green Mountain, L.I. 3/	100-lb.	3.72	---	2.64	2.52	---	---	---	
Green Mountain, Maine 3/	100-lb.	4.05	4.10	2.75	2.71	2.70	2.79	2.78	
Katahdin, Maine 3/	100-lb.	4.05	4.10	2.76	2.71	2.70	2.79	2.28	
Russet Burbank, Idaho 2/	100-lb.	5.24	5.16	5.09	5.09	5.13	4.91	4.80	
<u>Chicago:</u>									
<u>New crop:</u>									
Bliss Triumph, Florida 2/	50-lb.	2.72	2.81	3.79	3.06	2.46	2.32	2.57	
<u>Old crop:</u>									
Bliss Triumph, Nebr. 2/	100-lb.	4.15	4.45	---	3.18	3.11	3.22	3.60	
Bliss Triumph, Midw. 3/	100-lb.	4.10	---	---	2.99	---	---	---	
Pontiac, Midw. 2/	100-lb.	---	---	2.78	2.89	2.75	---	2.67	
Red McClure, Colorado 2/	100-lb.	4.29	---	3.15	3.22	3.03	3.14	3.68	
Russet Burbank, Idaho 2/	100-lb.	4.29	4.60	4.40	4.37	4.04	3.82	4.01	

1/ Bliss Triumph. 2/ Washed. 3/ Unwashed. 4/ Commercial grade.

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 9.- Potatoes, commercial early: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1939-48, annual 1949, and indicated 1950 1/

Seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average	1949	Indi-	Average	1949	Indi-	Average	1949	Indi-
	1939-48		cated	1939-48		cated	1939-48		cated
	1939-48		1950	1939-48		1950	1939-48		1950
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter ...	11,660	9,500	11,200	139	248	198	1,613	2,354	2,222
Early									
Spring ..	26,870	21,900	20,000	121	182	146	3,228	3,994	2,920
Late									
Spring ..	177,010	138,500	146,900	189	294	---	33,461	40,731	---
Summer ...	126,600	95,900	2/92,100	175	201	---	22,046	19,278	---
Total ..	342,140	265,800	270,200	177	250	---	60,348	66,357	---

1/ This acreage and production is later included in the reports of total potatoes.
 2/ Intended.

Table 10.- Sweetpotatoes: Unweighted average wholesale price per bushel for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1949 and 1950

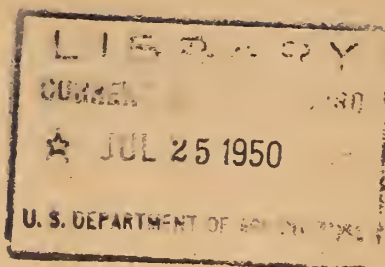
Market, variety, and source	1949		1949-50 season					
	Month	Week	Month	Month	Month	Month	Month	Week
	ended	ended	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	ended	ended
	March	Apr. 16	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr. 15	Apr. 15
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
New York								
Golden, Maryland	3.00	3.63	2.92	---	---	---	---	---
Golden, New Jersey	3.58	3.95	2.76	2.39	3.01	2.86	2.90	---
Jersey type, New Jersey	3.08	3.70	2.55	2.62	2.83	2.84	2.90	---
Porto Rican, Louisiana	4.84	---	---	3.20	3.31	---	---	---
Porto Rican, Maryland	---	---	2.72	2.63	2.67	---	---	---
Porto Rican, N.C. and S.C. ..	4.52	5.23	3.35	3.52	3.47	3.48	3.50	---
General average	3.81	4.50	2.93	3.00	3.10	3.04	3.15	---
Chicago								
Jersey type, Ill.	3.75	---	3.47	---	---	---	---	---
Nancy Hall, Illinois	3.50	---	3.05	3.06	2.95	3.00	3.12	---
Nancy Hall, Tennessee	3.59	4.96	---	2.95	2.82	2.92	---	---
Porto Rican, Illinois	---	---	3.31	3.21	3.05	3.09	---	---
Porto Rican, Louisiana	4.37	6.10	3.62	3.30	3.27	3.23	3.44	---
Porto Rican, Tennessee	3.94	5.32	---	3.07	3.02	2.92	3.16	---
General average	4.08	5.48	3.40	3.28	3.14	3.20	3.29	---

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 11.- Average prices received by farmers for selected field crops, United States, April 15, 1950, with comparisons

Crop and unit	Average		Apr. 15,	Feb. 15,	Mar. 15,	Apr. 15,
	Aug. 1909	Jan. 1935	1949	1950	1950	1950
	July 1914	Dec. 1939				
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Potatoes, per bushel697	.717	1.76	1.33	1.32	1.34
Sweetpotatoes, per bu.878	.807	2.75	2.21	2.22	2.28
Beans, dry, edible, cwt. :	3.37	3.52	7.81	6.68	6.82	6.85
Peas, dry, field, cwt. ...	---	2/1.40	3.47	2.85	2.78	2.88

1/ Revised, 2/ Two-year average, January 1938 to December 1939.



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